

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 STR-08 H-03 GSA-02 L-03 TAR-02

INT-08 /060 R

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R 072119Z JAN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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E.O 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, ETRD

SUBJECT: COPPER - CONSULTATIONS ON STOCKPILE DISPOSALS

1. IN DEC. CONGRESS PASSED LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING DISPOSAL OF COPPER FROM THE STRATEGIC STOCKPILE. ON JAN 3 DEPOFFS MET WITH ZAIRIAN CHARGE LUALABA TO OUTLINE PROPOSALS BY THE GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION TO TRANSFER PART OF COPPER INVENTORY TO US MINT AND SELL REMAINDER BY COMPETITIVE BIDS. ZAIRIAN REP PROMISED REPORT GOZ'S REACTION TO PROPOSED DISPOSAL PROGRAM ASAP.

2. GSA PROPOSED TO DISPOSE OF 251,600 SHORT TONS OF COPPER NOW AVAILABLE FOR DISPOSAL BY TRANSFERRING 80,000 TO 85,000 ST TO US MINT FOR COINAGE PURPOSES. REMAINDER (166,600 OR 171,600 ST) WOULD BE SOLD BY COMPETITIVE BID OVER PERIOD OF SEVERAL MONTHS.

3. DEPOFFS ALSO PROVIDED BACKGROUND TO STOCKPILE POLICY ON DISPOSALS; E.G., THAT DISPOSALS ARE MADE AFTER STOCKPILE

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OBJECTIVES (REQUIREMENTS) ARE LOWERED AND EXCESS MADE

AVAILABLE FOR DISPOSAL BY CONGRESS. DEPOFFS EXPLAINED PRESSURE FOR LEGISLATION ON COPPER CAUSED BY CURRENT WORLD-WIDE SHORTAGE OF SUPPLY. ACCORDING TO TESTIMONY BEFORE HOUSE SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISPOSALS, US INDEPENDENT COPPER CONSUMERS THREATENED BY SUPPLY SHORTAGE WERE IN DANGER OF SHUTTING DOWN PLANT FACILITIES.

4. ZAIRIAN REP AGREED WITH DEPOFFS VIEW THAT WITH CURRENT SHORTAGES AND HIGH PRICES NOW IS MOST OPPORTUNE TIME FOR GSA SALES. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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